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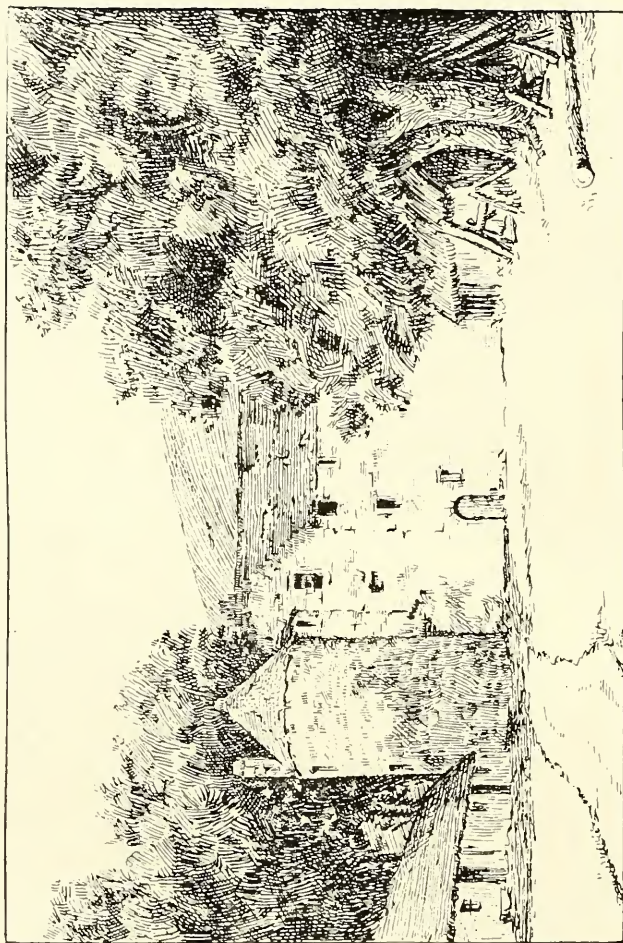
NOTES
ON
THE FAMILY OF
GORDON OF TERPERSIE
WITH
A TABLE OF THEIR DESCENT.

BY
CAPTAIN DOUGLAS WIMBERLEY,
SOMETIME OF THE 79TH REGIMENT OR CAMERON HIGHLANDERS, WHOSE
GRANDMOTHER WAS A GORDON OF LESMOIR.

Inverness :
PRINTED AT THE "NORTHERN CHRONICLE" OFFICE.

1900.





TERPERSEY CASTLE.

From a Drawing by William Leiper, R.S.A.

From Capt. Douglas Wainherley
To the Librarian, Advocates Library
Edinburgh.

Shardross Terrace
Inverness -
17 Feb. 1900

Dear Sir, I send you in 1896 a
copy of my book "Four Old Families"
one of which was the Gordons of
Lemoir -

I now beg to send you a copy
of a revised pedigree of that family,
recently printed after the publica-
tion of "Records of Aboque" and
some volumes of the "Reg." of the

great seal afforded to
not previously accessible

I also send a copy
of the Gordon of Birkhead
of Letmoir.

I would suggest the
folded & placed inside
of the book already sent.
I am

Yours faithfully

Douglas W.

P.S. I may as well
send you a copy of some
the Gordon of Birkhead

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to me -
a Redipen
burn, abets

being
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bury -
also send
notes on
y, which

a friend of mine has just had
printed for private circulation,
and I have had a few copies
printed for myself -



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NOTES
ON
A PEDIGREE
OF THE
GORDONS OF TERPERSIE

TO WHICH THE SMALL ARABIC NUMERALS BELOW REFER.

THE Gordons of Terpersie were descended from Jock of Scurdargue by his spouse, Elizabeth Maitland: Jock lived from say 1380-1460: their 2nd son, William in Tillytarmont, who lived say 1424-1484, married a sister of Sir John Rutherford: their eldest son was George in Tillytarmont, who lived say 1450-1500, married Isobel, daughter of Beroald Innes of Meilliers: and their 2nd son was James Gordon, first of Lesmoir, who lived say 1475-1557: he married, 1st, Margaret, daughter of Patrick Stewart of Laithers, relict of Meldrum of Eden: 2ndly, about 1546, Margaret, daughter of Alexander Ogilvy of Deskford, Finlater and Ogilvy, relict of Barclay of Gartly.

The 4th son of James Gordon of Lesmoir by his first marriage was William of Terpersie.

The place last mentioned is found spelt various ways—Terpersie, Tarpersie, Terpersey, Telpersie, Terperse (see Nisbet), Dalpersie, and Dulpersie: the first syllable is from either the Gaelic 'Tir,' land, or 'Dal,' field: the two last from the Gaelic 'Preasach,' meaning either 'abounding in bushes or shrubs,' or 'wrinkled, furrowed'; either meaning being no doubt formerly applicable.

The Estate lies on a declivity on the south-east side of a range of hills, called the Correen Hills. The old Castle, which bears the date

1561, stands in a pretty glen, upon the burn of Tullynessle, running from north-west to south-east, about 600 feet above the sea, well sheltered by Dumbarton Hill, 1269 feet, to the north, Lord Arthur's Cairn, 1700 feet, to the west, and Manabattach Hill, nearly 1400 feet, to the south-west, the latter being planted. The castle and lands were formerly nearly surrounded by properties belonging to Lord Forbes, and the families of his clan: in fact, it was a sort of advanced outpost of the Gordons of Strathbogie, beyond the lands of Gordon of Knock-espoek, which again marched with those of Druminor, formerly called Castle Forbes, and the principal seat of the head of the clan.

(4) WILLIAM GORDON, 1ST OF TERPERSIE, was twice married, his first wife was Margaret Ogilvy, either a daughter of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Dunlugas (according to old M.S. Pedigree, 1580, formerly in possession of C.E.D.), or of Sir Walter Ogilvy of Boyne, or of Ogilvy of Banff (according to Balbithan M.S.), issue a son, George.

His second wife, Elspet, was daughter of George Gordon of Tilphoudie by Helenor, daughter of Adam, Lord of Aboyne, and Earl of Sutherland. Elspet was relict of John Forbes of Brux, and she married, 3rdly, William Innes of Calrossie, in Ross. (See Records of Aboyne, p.p. 201 and 213-14).

James of Lesmoir had acquired for himself and his heirs, etc., in 1550, the lands of Braichlie and others in the Lordship of Aboyne from George, Earl of Huntly, with consent of his Countess, Lady Elizabeth Keith, but granted a letter of Reversion on payment of 1000 merks in gold. This money was paid, and a discharge granted, 6th May, 1552, and the following day the Earl sold the said lands to William Gordon of Terpersie. (See Records of Aboyne, p. 78). The Earl afterwards issued a Precept of Clare constat in favour of George of Terpersie of these lands and those of Ballater: both Charter and Precept were confirmed by the King, 12th December, 1596. (See Records of Aboyne *ibid*).

William Gordon of Terpersie got a Charter, dated 12th July, 1556, from William, Bishop of Aberdeen, of the lands of Terpersie and others, viz.—Warakstoun and Bogyshallach in the Sheriffdom of Aberdeen, to be held in feu ferme by the said William and Margaret Ogilvy, his spouse, and the longer liver of them in conjunct fee, and the heirs male of their bodies, whom failing the heirs male and assigns whomsoever of the said William—of the said Bishop. Reddendo £13 6s 8d: with precept of sasine directed to Mr Thos. Gordoun—

dated at City of Aberdeen, 12th July, 1556. Confirmed at Stirling, 18th August, 1585. R.M.S. V.877.

This laird built the house of Terpersie (see Balbithan M.S.): he was at * battle of Corrichie, 1562: he signed the bond for the Queen's service, 1568, was at battle of Tillyangus under Adam Gordon of Auchindoune, and at the raid of Craibstane, both in 1571: was one of those Gordons who agreed to submit differences in the Clan feud with the Forbesees to certain members of the Privy Council in 1580: probably as "Gordoun of Dalpersie" is mentioned as one of those alleged to be in arms against the King in 1589, and as "Mr William Gordoun of Dalpersie" gave a bond of caution in same year. He is said to have died at Rannes in the Enzie, and to have been buried at Rannes Aisle, Rathven. (See Castles of Aberdeenshire, and Thanage of Fermartyn p. 103).

(5) GEORGE OF TERPERSIE was at the battle of Glenlivet, 1594, his name is in the remission granted, 1603, as "of Dalpersie": admitted a Burgess of Aberdeen, 1597, and was one of two sureties as "George Gordoun of Telperse" for the Earl of Huntly in the same year: is mentioned in Huntly Rental of 1600 as tenant of the farm of Rochefindzeauche in the Cabrach; (the name of the farm cannot now be identified, it may possibly be what is now called Rochford, very near the upper part of Glenbucket, or it may be what is called Rastinnuch (Rath-finnuch) in the Poll-book for the Cabrach, 1696): he acquired Bruchles about 1600, and Badinscoth, 1603, and Darley from the Meldrums of Iden, 1614. (See Thanage of Fermartyn, p. 104): he got a Charter of lands of Old Leslie from his cousin, Alex. Gordon of Lesmoir, in 1602 (see Rec. of Aboyne, p. 195): he got sasine in Ardlair, 1618: granted a reversion of the east half of Kirkcoun of Clatt to James Gordon of Knockespock, 1619: purchased lands of Premnay, 1622 (R.M.S. viii., 399). He purchased Meikle and Little Raitie, etc., in the Parish of Inverboindie, Banffshire, and the Charter was signed at Law, 17th January, 1623: among the witnesses were his son, William, and William's son, Alexander: confirmed at Edinburgh, 8th July, 1623 (R.M.S. viii., No. 480). He got sasine on Innererme, 1624.

George of Terpersie and his wife, Margaret Ogilvy, a daughter of Ogilvy of Inverquharitie, were among the defendants against whom

* His name, however, is not in the remission granted 26th Feb., 1567, but he would be included under "the Earl of Huntly's friends and their tenants, domestics, and servitors."

John, Earl of Mar, raised an action in 1626, before the Lords of Session, for the reduction of their Charters of certain lands held by them (a numerous body, about 150 in number), with success in 1628: possibly this refers to the superiority of Leith Hall and Leslie, which his son, William, and his sons obtained presumably by purchase from the Earl of Mar in 1630 (see Rec. of Aboyne, p. 201). He got grant of Blairshinnoch, Culbuirnies, and other lands in Inverboindie, Banffshire, on the resignation of Ogilvy of Deskfurd, 1627: confirmed at Halirudhous, 15th November, 1627 (R.M.S. VIII., No. 1161).

He had four sons—1, William; 2, George, probably of Old Leslie; 3, Patrick, of Badinscoth; 4, John; and a daughter, married to Cumming of Culter.

George and his son, William, mentioned as consenting parties to the resignation of some lands by Sir Thomas Burnett of Leyes, and Sir Alex. Cuming of Culter, in 1628: George being designed "of Terpersie," and William G., "apparent of the same, his son": the King confirmed the grant of these lands to George Johnston, junr., at Halyruidhous, 30th July, 1628 (R.M.S. VIII., No. 1291). George Gordon's daughter married the laird of Culter.

In 1633 George and his son, William, mentioned together as restand (owing) money (see note at end). He died 1634. In 1636 George is mentioned as deceased in connection with the grant from the King to Sir George Ogilvy of Banff of certain lands in the barony of Montbray, including Blairschinnoch, Meikle Raittie, in the Parish of Inverboyndie, which lands (or at any rate Meikle Raittie and those following in the Charter) George and his son and heir, William G. of Terpersie, had resigned. Charter confirmed at Edinburgh, 23rd January, 1636 (R.M.S. IX., No. 453).

George of Terpersie's wife is said, in a birth brieve of much later date, 1703, to have been Margaret Gordon, daughter of Gordon of Auchannachy; or rather I should have said a WILLIAM Gordon of Terpersie is said to have had by his wife, Margaret Gordon of Auchannachy, a daughter, Marjorie Gordon, wife of an Alexander Gordon of Kinraigie, son of Patrick Gordon of *Craig.

* P.S.—I find that Patrick Gordon of Kinraigie had by his wife Marjorie Coutts of the Auchtercoul family a second son named Alexander (Rec. of Aboyne p. 200): and according to the Balb. MS. William, 3rd laird of Terpersie, had a daughter who married Gordon of Kinraigie. Hence, perhaps, Margaret G. of Auchannachie was first wife of William, 3rd laird of Terpersie, and Marjorie her daughter.

I believe very little of the above is correct, but it seems not improbable that George of Terpersie married a daughter of John Gordon of Auchannachy, and sister of John Gordon, junr., of Auchannachy, both mentioned in Reg. Priv. Co., the former in 1592 and 1594, and the latter and a sister, Isobel, in 1609. There are no dates given in the birth-brieve, and "Patrick of Craig" may mean Patrick of Johnslays, father of William who became first laird of Craig, or Patrick of Auchmenzie, brother of William of Craig. There is a great deal of information in Records of Aboyne (pp. 210, 214) about the descendants of this family, but I can find no Alexander of *Kincraigie.

Patrick of Auchmenzie, brother of William of Craig, had an eldest son, George of Auchmenzie, who succeeded his father about 1573: he and his wife, Helenor Gordon, got a Charter of Tilphoudie and other lands, 1562:† this Helenor was a daughter of Adam, Lord of Aboyne and Earl of Sutherland, and those who drew up the birth-brieve appear to have supposed that "Patrick of Craig" was descended from the Earl of Sutherland. This George of Auchmenzie, who died before 1582, had 9 sons, the 5th of whom was named Alexander, but in Records of Aboyne he is designed "of Bonte" (a place near Aboyne): his wife was a Helenor Gordon, daughter of John G. of Bruny, and their son, Patrick, was killed at Glenlivet, 1594, with his brothers.

*Nothing can really be made out of the above, except that it seems possible that one of the lairds of Terpersie married a daughter of Gordon of Auchannachy, and that probably a daughter of theirs married one of the Auchmenzie or Kincraigie family.

I have found it equally difficult to discover who these Gordons of Auchannachy were, but I think they may be identified as of the Gordons of Avochie. As already stated, we find John G. of Auchannachie, and John G., yr. of Auchannachie, both mentioned in Reg. Priv. Co. in 1592, and John G. of Avochie, and John G., yr. of Avochie, also mentioned therein in 1602. In the Balbithan M.S., John G., 3rd of Avochie, is said to have died in Auchannachie: his eldest son is John of Avochie, his 2nd Patrick of Cairnwhelp: one of his daughters is said to have married Andrew Macpherson of Cluny. But in the Cluny pedigree, given in Douglas' Baronage, John of Cluny,

* See footnote, p. 6.

† Helenor, evidently mother of Elspet, 2nd wife of William, 1st laird of Terpersie.

brother and successor of Andrew of Cluny, is said to have married a daughter of Gordon of Auchanassie, evidently referring to the same marriage.

John Gordon, 4th of Avochie, married Beatrix Stewart: they both got a sasine in 1605, and had, as their eldest son, John, fiar of Avochie, who predeceased his father, but left a son, John; and their second son was George of Auchannachie: but in 1622 a John G. of Auchannachie got a Charter of Avochie as heir of John of Avochie.

There seems to have been some confusion between Auchannachie, Auchanassie, Achindachie, Auchindacht, Auchinacie, and Auchenhandoch.

Nisbet in his *Heraldry* mentions among branches of the Gordon family "John Gordon of Auchanassie, whose grandfather was a second son of the family of Lesmoir"; and "Alexander Gordon of Birkenburn, descended of Lesmoir, the first cadet of that family." I think there is a mistake here: James Gordon of Birkenburne and Janet Gordon, his spouse, got a Charter of lands of Birkenburne and Auchindacht from Patrick, Bishop of Moray, in 1570: and Auchindachy is about 3 miles from Birkenburne. (See R.M.S. V.2178. The arms of both are given in Robson's *Heraldry*; the motto of both families, "Bydand": but I think Auchanassie has been confused with Auchindachy, i.e., Auchindacht, part of Birkenburn.

On the other hand, the late Mr James Macdonald, of the Farm, Huntly, says that Auchannachie, which is very near Daugh o' Riven (but also not far from Avochie) belonged to Tam o' Riven and his descendants up to the middle of last century.

*In any case, I have found no proof that George G. of Terpersie was twice married, or that Margaret G., daughter of Gordon of Auchannachie, was his wife.

There were Gordons of Auchannachie later, one mentioned 1659, and Adam G. and his spouse got sasine in Auchannachie in 1673, while three sons of John G. of Avochie got sasine in 1674, and the latter family retained the title up to the middle of this century.

(6) WILLIAM OF TERPERSIE's wife, according to the Balbithan M.S., was a daughter of the blind Lady Leichiston, daughter of Abernethy of Saltoun, and relict of the Laird of Birkenbog (Abercrombie): issue—1, Alexander, d. unmarried; 2, James, afterwards of Terpersie; 3, John of Law; 4, William, d. unmarried; 5, Harry of

* See footnote, p. 6.

Auchlyne ;* a daughter married Gordon of Kincaigie ; a daughter married Stuart of Newton.

William is mentioned as "fiar of Terpersie," and a witness along with his father and his brother, John, in 1610 (see Rec. of Aboyne, p. 201); he is mentioned in Book of Annual Rentars (see below). He appears to have succeeded his father in 1634; got sasine on a renunciation, 1634.

In a Rental of the Parish of Kennethmount and Chrystiskirk, 1635, the lands are mentioned of Law, Earlsfield, Ardler, Segiden, muir parts and pendicles belonging heritably to William G. of Terpersie, valued at 5 Chalders victual, &c., &c.; there are also other lands in same Parish mentioned in same Rental as wadset, and others belonging heritably to him.

In an agreement between the heritors, &c., of same Parish and the minister thereof for a constant stipend, inter alia, the whole lands of Wardes are described as belonging to the laird of Wardes "Wadsets be" (apparently a mistake for "to") William Gordoun of Terpersie; and the lands of Earlsfield and Segiden and others as belonging heritably to the said William G. of Terpersie. Each of these three lots are valued at 8 Chalders victual. (Ant. A. & B., Nos. 513 and 515).

With regard to Wardes, or Wardhouse, that property appears from the above to have been wadsetted by John Leslie of Wardes to James Farquharson of Invercy in 1633 for 10,000 merks, and to the laird of Terpersie by 1635. I found mention of its having been purchased in Nisbet's Heraldry, by Robert Farquharson of Invercauld, the 4th laird, who married Margaret, daughter of Erskine of Pittodrie. And in 1672 Alexander Farquharson of Invercauld and Wardhouse, being called before the Lords of the Council to give bond for the peace of the Highlands, had to do this as Principal, with Archd. Reid of Edindurno as cautioner, binding themselves, their heirs and successors, and Invercauld's tenants, servants, and in-dwellers upon his lands, and persons of his name, to commit no murders, deforcement of messengers, thefts, fire-raising, &c., under penalty of 3000 merks, over and above redress, and giving up offenders when cited. (See Introduction to Historical Papers, Jacobite period, New Spalding Club, p. x.). At a later date, John Gordon of Law, of the Terpersie family, acquired Wardhouse.

William of Terpersie got sasine in Tullich, 28th November, 1636,

See footnote, p. 6.

and in Erlsfield and Segiden, 24th December of same year, in Kirk-toun of Clatt, 16th December, 1637.

The house of Terpersie was burnt by the Covenanters in 1645; and the laird suffered in pocket.

I think there can be no doubt that William, 3rd laird of Terpersie, succeeded his father, George, and was succeeded by his son, James, not by a son, William; James was younger of Terpersie in 1643—William had a brother, John, and also a son, John.

The lands of Clatt were appraised from William in favour of George Anderson in Milntown of Noth in 1648. (See R.M.S. ix., No. 2014).

William of Terpersie got sasine in Rothmuriel, 1649. He was served heir to George, his father, 29th August, 1655, in the lands of Culburnies and others in the Parish of Inverboindie (Banffshire Retours), though his father appears to have died more than 20 years before—probably to enable a title to be made up. He got sasine in Badinscoth, 1657; and, in 1668, William and James (his son) or Terpersie granted a reversion to Henry G. of Auchlyne, who got a sasine in Clatt, 1669. William of Terpersie probably died at the end of 1668, for John G. of Law granted a reversion to James G. of Terpersie apparently in December of same year.

George Gordon of Terpersie and (7) George, his 2nd son, got a Charter in 1602, and sasine in 1603. Perhaps, as the Charter (1602) was of old Leslie, acquired from Alexander Gordon of Lesmoir, the son George may have been "of old Leslie."* (See Rec. of Aboyne, pp. 195 and 201).

(8) John Gordon, along with his brother, William, was a witness in 1618 to a reversion granted by their father, George, of the east half of the Kirkton of Clatt to James Gordon of Knockespoek. (See Rec. of Aboyne, p. 201).

A son of Gordon of Terpersie is said to have fired a shot, at the bidding of Gordon of Haddo, at Mr James Stalker, and killed him at Turriff in 1639; this may have been either the above George, or more probably John or Henry, sons of William of Terpersie.

According to a pedigree of the Badinscoth family given in the Thanage of Fermartyn, John, son of George, and brother of George, was "of Law," but I think this is a mistake.

* George's wife, said to be a daughter of the Baron of Braicklie, perhaps the Baron slain by some of the Clan Chattan at the instigation of a natural son of Edom o' Gordon in 1591. (See Legends of the Braes o' Mar, pp. 52, 53).

(9) Patrick of Badinscoth. See pedigree of Badinscoth family, in *Thanage of Fermartyn*, p. 104.

(10) Alexander, younger of Terpersie, predeceased his father, unmarried; see *Balbithan M.S.* and *Castles of Aberdeenshire*. I have not found any other mention of him.

(11) JAMES OF TERPERSIE is mentioned as early as 1637, when he and his spouse got sasine in Auchlyne. There is no doubt that his wife was Anne, daughter of John Gordon of Craig. James G., younger of Terpersie, and spouse got sasine in Newhigging, &c., 1643; he was (I believe) served heir of Terpersie in 1671; got a reversion from John G. (apparently of Law) in December, 1668; he and his father granted a reversion to Henry G. of Auchlyne in same month and year; he got or granted a renunciation, 20th June, 1671; he got a sasine in Terpersie in October, 1675, and another in February, 1676.

NOTE.—The series of extracts of sasines I have relative to Gordons is a very large one, extending over the first three-quarters of the 17th century, with gaps, as some old volumes for Aberdeenshire are lost; but they are only in skeleton, being brief notes made by a searcher for his own guidance when trying to trace out the descent of a probable heir to the Lesmoir baronetcy.

(12) John Gordon, first of Law (according to the *Balbithan M.S.*) married Isobel Gordon, daughter to Leichiston, and had three sons, viz.:—John G., afterwards of Law; James of Darley, and Hary in Drumhead.

John Gordon, second of Law, married a daughter of the laird of Culter (Cumming), and had a son, John, afterwards of Law; this second laird died in the flower of his age (*Balb. MS.*). Ann Cumming, spouse to John Gordon, yr. of Law, concurs in his disposition of part of Rothie to William Forbes, brother to Sir Alex. Forbes of Tolquhon, 24th November, 1671. (From *Inverurie Court Books*: see Dr Davidson's "*Inverurie*," p. 329).

John Gordon, third of Law, acquired Wardes; he was three times married (*Balb. M.S.*): 1st, to a daughter of Mr Robert Irvine, minister of Towie, by whom he had Arthur Gordon, younger of Law and Wardes when *Balbithan* wrote; 2nd, Mary Gordon, daughter of Hary Gordon of Auchlyne; 3rd, a lady named ? Hay, Lady Crimond, and had no issue by the two last marriages: but the 2nd wife was Mary Baird, daughter to Auchmedden, and relict of William Gordon of Badinscoth: and Mary Baird survived him (*Wardhouse Entail*).

According to some M.S. notes on the Terpersie family, lent to me some years ago, John, son of William of Terpersie, was laird of Wardhouse. I think this must be wrong, for Wardhouse was acquired from Farquharson of Invercauld at a date later than the sasines, which I have, extend to, viz., 1684; at any rate I find no mention of a John Gordon getting sasine in Wardhouse in them. According to the Balbithan M.S., John, grandson of the first John of Law, purchased Wardhouse, his father having died in the flower of his age. This is probably correct: and not far on in the 18th century.

In 1630 there is a procuratory of resignation for William Gordon of Terpersie, and John and Henry, his sons, they having obtained the superiority of the lands of Leslie and Leith Hall from John, Earl of Mar (Aberdeen sasines vol. I., II., quoted in Rec. of Aboyne, p. 201). I cannot recognise this among the sasines included in my list, unless it is briefly, "Renunc. to William G. of Terpersie, 25th November, 1634."

In 1643 John G., son of William G. of Terpersie, and Isobel Gordon, his future spouse, got sasine in Ardlair on 16th June; in 1650 John G. got sasine in Darley or Bogs of Darley; and in 1656 John G. "of Law" got sasine in Earlsfield; but I cannot find a John G. getting sasine in Law in my brief notes; he got sasine in Clatt in 1668, and he granted a reversion to James G. of Terpersie in same year; John G. of Law got sasine in Rothienormand in 1674.

There is mention of a James G., second son to John G. of Law, in 1681; a John G. of Law is retoured heir (General sasines) to John G. of Law, his father, in 1696, evidently as the 3rd of Law.

(13) Harry of Auchlyne is mentioned along with John as sons of William of Terpersie, and as having the superiority of the lands of Leslie and Leith Hall from the Earl of Mar in 1630 (see Rec. of Aboyne, p. 201). Harry and his son, James, got sasine in Seggieden. 1658. Harry voted for Lord Aboyne going to meet General Monk in 1659; he and his wife got sasine in 1663 and another in 1664, his wife's name, Marjorie Innes, is given in the second of these, both in Auchlyne. Harry got sasine in Mill of Clatt, 1665, in Clatt, 1669 and 1671; in Tillyangus, 1674, and in Auchmenzie, 1677. James G. of Auchlyne and Rachel Burnett, his spouse, in Auchlyne, 1680.

Harry of Auchlyne's children were—James, yr. of Auchlyne; George, who acquired Knockespock, probably by purchase; John, Burgess in Aberdeen; and a daughter, said to have married John Gordon of Law: this seems doubtful.

(14) **GEORGE GORDON OF TERPERSIE**: he was entered as Yr. of Terpersie at King's College, 1668, and his spouse, a daughter of Sir Alexander Burnett of Craigmyle, got sasine in Civile [sic] (presumably Clatt) in 1677.

(15) Janet, daughter of James of Terpersie, married David Gordon of Achoynanie, 3rd son of Sir John Gordon, 2nd Gordon of Park.

This David was brother of Sir John, 1st Bart. of Park, and of George Gordon of Edinglassie, mentioned in a sasine, 1672; he and Janet had a son, James Gordon of Balbithan, who was author of the M.S. History of the Gordons, called the Balbithan M.S. He married 1st Elizabeth, sister of Sir Alexander Burnett of Craigmyle, and had issue; and 2ndly a grand-daughter of Innes of Balvenie, by whom he had a son, Benjamin, who succeeded to Balbithan, and became a General in the army. As the mother of the author of the Balbithan M.S. was a daughter of the laird of Terpersie, it is probable that his information about that family is generally correct.

(16) **CHARLES OF TERPERSIE**, who was forfeited and executed in 1746, married, according to the Balbithan M.S., a daughter of Adam Gordon at the Mill of Artloch (a few miles above Huntly, and on the Deveron), who was probably descended from Thomas Gordon of Artloch, one of the eight sons of John Gordon of Cairnborrow, present with their father at the battle of Glenlivet in 1594.

According to family tradition, Charles and his son, Charles, a young lad, were zealous supporters of Prince Charlie: the son was taken prisoner as one of the small garrison at Carlisle, in December, 1745, ultimately his life was spared, but he was sent to the West Indies: the father was a fugitive and in hiding after the battle of Culloden. Having ventured one day to go to the neighbourhood of his own house, near a farm where his wife and younger children were getting shelter, he was captured by a party of Cumberland's soldiers, and identified by being confronted with his children, who greeted him with cries of "Daddy." Along with other Scots prisoners, he was removed to Carlisle, tried on 1st November, and executed there, along with ten others, on 15th November, 1746.

The following is a copy of a letter written by him to his wife the day before he suffered—taken from "The Lyon in Mourning":—

"Dear Heart,—I now tell you that I suffer death to-morrow for my duty to God, my King, and Country. I bless God I die in charity with all men. I think my butchered body will be taken care of and buried

as a Christian by order of Francis Farquharson, who has acted a father to me, and laid out a good deal of money to and for me, whereof you may expect a particular account, which I leave you on my blessing to repay him.

"I die with the greatest regret that I've been a bad husband to you, and I beg you'll pardon me in your heart, and that you'll express your goodness (as you'll answer to God and me in the everlasting world) by your care of and motherly looking to your children's salvation and right putting them to business in this world. I know not how many are alive: only set the boys to some right imployment while young, and strive to admonish the daughters in the fear of God. I herewith send you a note of what I would have done with the trifles I have a concern in, for you know the lump of my business.

"My dearest,—If I should write till my life ends I would still have something to say. But to stop that I end with my dying blessing to you, my young ones, and your poor mother, if alive. Your last from your unfortunate husband,

"CHA. GORDON.

"Carlisle, November 14th, 1746."

The following is a copy of a letter which served to cover the above to Lady Terperse, from Mr Patrick Gordon, Presbyterian preacher at Rhynie—also from "The Lyon in Mourning":—

"Madam,—The inclosed came to me two or three days ago, and I intended to have delivered it to you with my own hand. But as I cannot travel so far for some days by reason of necessary business in my parish, I thought proper, rather than delay it any longer, to transmit it in this manner. My correspondent is a gentlewoman that lives in the neighbourhood of Carlisle, who saw Terperse every day for some time before his death, and says he died as became a truly penitent Christian, to the conviction of all the clergy and others that conversed with him. She writes me that one Wright, by orders from Mr Farquharson, provided a coffin for his body: that she gave such grave cloaths as are usual, put them on, and saw him buried in St Culberts [sic] Churchyard. So that you and all your relations are very much obliged to this gentlewoman. She desires me further to acquaint you that he never received any letter from you nor any remittance; and the letter I wrote, giving him an account of you and your children, did not reach Carlisle until after his death; that she has his stock-buckle, buttons, and a book he left to his son Charles, which she is ready to send to Edinburgh to any person you shall name there, which you may do by me when you please, for I intend to write her soon.

"Terperse mentions some note or account in his letter: but it did not come to my hand, nor does my correspondent write anything about it.

"I am, Madam, your most humble servant,

"(Sic subscribitur) PAT. GORDON.

"Rhynie, January 26th, 1747."

There is still a tradition (1899) in Strathbogie that a lady, known as "Lady Terperse," perished in a fire at the Farm-house of Collithie, situate between the Bogie and the Ness Bogie, about a century ago: possibly she was the widow of poor Charles Gordon, or of one of his sons.

The following is a copy of a letter, relative to the burial-place of Sir Archd. Primrose of Dunipace, who was executed along with Charles Gordon, which is extant at Dalmeny, and was sent by Lord Rosebery to the Mayor of Carlisle, and printed in the "Scotsman" of 13th Sept., 1899:—

"Letter from Mr James Wright, writer in Edinburgh, to the sister of Sir Archibald Primrose, enclosing a letter from her brother, written on the morning of his execution at Carlisle."

"Madam,—Your brother who is no more delivered me this immediately before he suffered. His behaviour was becoming a humble Christian. I waited on him to the last, and, with some other friends, witnessed his interment in St Cuthbert's Churchyard. He lies on the north side of the church, within four yards of the second window from the steeple. Mr Gordon of Terpersie and Patrick Murray, goldsmith, lie just by him. . . . I am just now going to wait upon poor Lady Mary.—I am, Madam, yours, &c., "J W.

"Carlisle, 15th November 1746, 4 o'clock afternoon."

In a List of the Officers of His Majesty's Marine Forces, given in the Edinburgh Almanack for 1774, occurs, among the First Lieutenants, and fairly high up, the name HARRY GORDON: this may be Terperse's son.

Extract from letter, of date 3rd Sept., 1850, from J. A. Gordon, Knockespock, to Rev. Harry Stuart, Oathlaw.

"You have told of much that I believe to be correct. I have got a tree of 27 generations from Adam de Gordon, 1056. Ter or Dalpersie XVI. was descended from Jock of Scurdargue XII. His 2nd son, William of Tillytarmont XIII. (the eldest being Pitlurg), George of Tillytarmont XIV. His second son, James of Lismoir XV., died

1575. His fourth, William of Terpersie XVI., who built the present Castle. His great-great-great-grandson, Charles XXI., of the 1745, married to Gordon of Artloch's or Arddoch's daughter; yourself (the Rev. Harry Stuart) his great-grandson XXIV. I trace myself also to Harry of Auchlyne XX. or XIX., 5th son of William XVIII., who was grandson of the 1st William XVI. of Terpersie, which William XVIII. married to Leichiston, and died in 1637, and buried at Tullynessel, appears to be our common ancestor. It is somewhere stated that (in A. L. Hay's Aberdeen Castles) James Gordon, my great-great-grand-uncle, bought Terpersie of the Yorkshire Building Company. He was a great friend of John, Duke of Argyle, who gave him some silver candlesticks, and I have heard, through his Duke's influence, he got Terpersie out of certain payments to the Lady of Terpersie and various other causes. I take it was so encumbered that the family could not have held it.

"This James was also a descendant of Harry XIX. of Auchlyne, and XXIII. generation from Adam I."

NOTES.—From the book of the Annual Rentaris and Wadsettaris, date, 1633, we find that Mr George Gordoun of Terpersie was indebted to William Orem in Dullab, Im. IIc. Merkis; Mr George Gordon of Terpersie to Robert Meldrum at the Mill of Rothie, VIIc. Merkis, and Patrick Gordoun of Badinscoth to the same, IIIc. Merkis; George Gordon of Terpersie to James Ros in Quhobbis, IIc. Merkis; George Gordon of Terpersie to John Bisat in Stayndfield, Im. Merkis; that George G. of Terpersie had recently paid to William Crystie in Wardhill, Im. Merkis; that George Gordon of Terpersie was indebted to Thomas Gordoun of Brodland, Im. Merkis; that George of Terpersie had recently paid to Duncan Calder in Cowll, VIII. Merkis and still owed him Vc. Merkis; that George and William Gordon of Terpersie were owing to Robert Meldrum at the mylne of Rothie, Im. VIc. Merkis; that George Gordoun of Terpersie was owing upon the wodsett of the lands of Darley redeemable, IIIIm. Merkis; and that William Gordoun of Terpersie had wodset to Helen Patersone, spouse to Robert Lamb in Bogs of Darley, of which she had his life-rent right for the sum of Im. IIIIc. Merkis, the said Bogs of Darley.

The George and William of the above named are of course the 2nd and 3rd lairds. Thomas Gordon of Brodland may be the son of William of Brodland, probably of the Pitlurg family and Brodland near Huntly, who got a remission for Glenlivat.

APPENDIX.

THE Estate of Terpersie, after the laird's forfeiture, was purchased by the York Buildings Company, who, a few years afterwards, sold it, about 1760, to James Gordon, then of Knockespock, who, having gone to the West Indies as a young man, and acquired a large fortune, purchased Grenada in 1751, and other estates abroad, and later Moor Place in Hertfordshire, as well as Terpersie. He married, but had no issue, and executed an entail in 1767 or 1769, shortly before his death.

This James Gordon was of the Terpersie family: he was the eldest son of George Gordon of Knockespock by his first wife, Marjory, daughter of Dr Moir of Scotstown: George of Knockespock was 2nd son of Harry of Auchlyné, who again was 5th son of William Gordon of Terpersie by his wife, a daughter of Gordon of Leichiston, and youngest brother of James of Terpersie: consequently James Gordon, who purchased Terpersie from the York Buildings Coy., was a second cousin of Charles of Terpersie who was forfeited.

The said George Gordon had purchased from his kinsman, John Gordon of Knockespock, the property of Knockespock in 1705: this John, previously of Glenbucket (his mother probably a daughter of Patrick Gordon of Badinscoth, of the Terpersie family), had been recently served heir to his father, John of Knockespock, whose father was another George of Knockespock, which he acquired, probably by wadset, in 1640, from Captain James Gordon of Knockespock, the last laird of the older Buckie family, descended from Alexander of Essie, the son of Jock of Scurdargue by Henault Macleod, and ancestor of Buckie, Knockespock, &c.

This Capt. James Gordon went to France, and commanded a company in the French service, and died in 1643.

By the entail above mentioned, James was succeeded by his half-brother, Col. Harry Gordon, R.E., of Knockespock and Terpersie: the next laird was the Colonel's son, Harry, also of the R.E., who died, and left a daughter, an only child. The estates then passed to James Adam Gordon, a male heir, but descended from a female, the entailer's full-sister, Margaret, who married James Brebner, their children taking the name of Gordon. This laird also married, but left no issue, and was succeeded by Sir Henry Percy Gordon, a male heir but descended from a female, the entailer's full-sister. Sir Henry died without male issue.

in 1876, and was succeeded by Hannah, daughter of Harry Gordon of the Royal Engineers, who died in 1836. She married Captain, afterwards Admiral, William Abdy-Fellowes, and died about two years ago, when her son, Captain Harry G. Fellowes-Gordon became laird of Knockespock and Terpersie.

It will be seen that from about 1770 till 1876, no laird had a son to succeed him, and it would appear that for many years little was done in looking after and improving the estates (except by James Adam Gordon, who built a very large addition to the house of Knockespock), until 1876, when the prospective succession opened to the present proprietor. Under these circumstances, the old Castle of Terpersie fell into very bad repair. Part of it was occupied as a farm-house up to a comparatively recent date, as it was, when a sketch (shown in the prefixed photo-zincograph) was drawn about 1884; but at last it had to be deserted, the roof fell in, and the walls are now fast becoming very ruinous: some part, beyond one of the towers, has either fallen or been taken down, and the stones used in building a new steading; the two round towers may stand some years—below a Corbel is the initial “G,” and below one of several loopholes the date 1561.

THE BOOKS OF TERPERSIE (from the original)

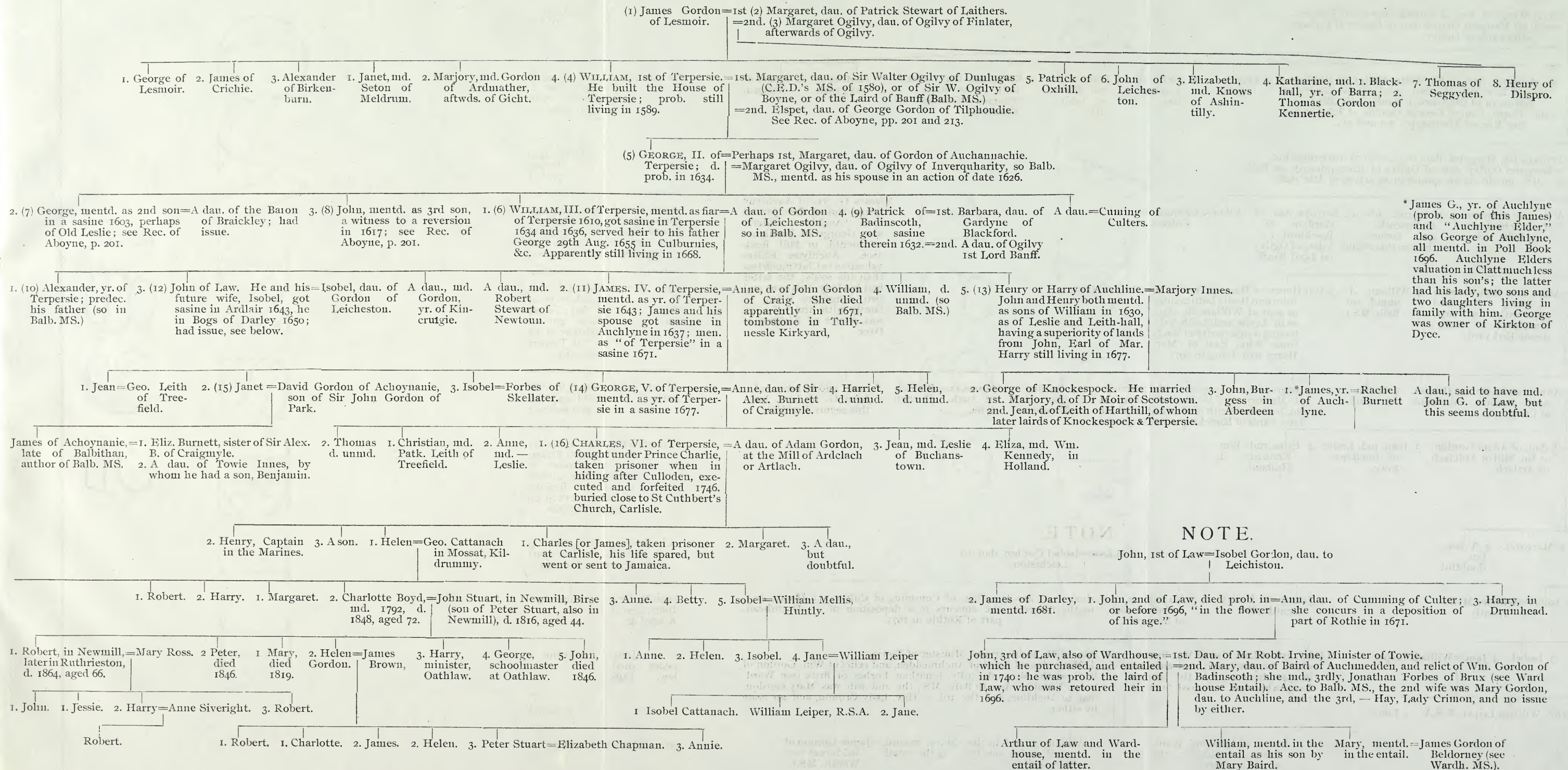
- 2. (7) George Terpersie in of C. Ab...
- 1. (10) Alexander Terpersie his father Ball...

James of late author of

1. Robert, later in d. 1864,

1. John.

DESCENT OF THE GORDONS OF TERPERSIE (framed from various sources).



NOTE.

John, 1st of Law=Isobel Gordon, dau. to Leichiston.

1870

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1912

PEDIGREE OF THE GORDONS OF BIRKENBURN, CADETS OF LESMOIR.

Note.—From R.M.S., V. 2178, Dalkeith, 27th Sept., 1592. The King granted a charter confirming a charter by the dec. Patrick Bishop of Moray, &c., in which he confirmed to the (dec.) James Gordon of Birkenburn and Jonet Gordon, his spouse, the lands of Birkenburne and Anchindacht, with the mills and multures, in the barony of Keyth, &c., which the same James resigned in favour of himself and the said Jonet in person; to be held by the said James and Jonet, and the longer liver, &c., &c., of the said bishop in feu-ferme; reserving the reasonable terce to *Jonet G.*, relict of Alex. G., father of said James. Reddendo, £5 6s 8d, &c. Signed at Spynie and Elgin, 15th Jan., 1570. The grant of *no vo damus* to Alex. G., son and heir of said James, his heirs and assigns, at Dalkeith, 27th Sept., 1592. *Jonet*, relict of Alex., appears a mistake for Beatrix, but the name is Jonet in the summary given in R.M.S.

ALEXANDER GORDON, 3rd son of James Gordon, 1st of Lesmoir, 1st Laird of Birkenburn. Evidently referred to and designed "of Perslie" in a charter of sale by John Carnegie to James Gordon of Lesmoir and Margaret Ogilvy, his spouse [his 2nd wife], of lands of Erlesfield and Segeden, which were settled on the spouses in conj. fee and heirs male of their bodies, failing them, evidently on James G.'s 2nd, 3d, and 4th sons by his first marriage; date of charter, 2nd Jan., 1546. See R.M.S. IV., No. 58. Dec. before 15th Jan., 1570.

1. Margaret (otherwise Isobel), dau. of George Gordon of Cairnborow, who fell at Pinkie.
2. Beatrix, otherwise Catherine, dau. of James Gordon of Abergeldie, who fell at Pinkie. She had a life-rent of the lands of Knock in Glenmuick. Abergeldie Charter Chest (Rec. of Aboyne, p. 222).
3. *Qy.* A dau., (perhaps) Janet, dau. of Alexander Gordon of Stradoun or Strathavon.
Note.—As to *Beatrix*, see Rec. of Aboyne, p. 222; as to *Janet*, I think she was the wife of James Gordon, son of Alex. of Birkenburn; but according to a charter of date 1570, a reasonable terce was reserved to Janet Gordon, relict of Alex. Gordon, father of James of Birkenhead. See margin.

Note.—In a MS. Pedigree of 1580, belonging to late Mr C. E. Dalrymple, this laird is said to have been three times married, and had "manie sons" by first, and "sundrie children" by 2nd and 3rd wives. Name of Cairnborow's dau., Isobel; of Abergeldie's, Catharine; but of Stradoun's not given there. There is no doubt that Abergeldie's daughter's name was Beatrix. The 3rd marriage not mentioned in the Balbithan MS.

JAMES, "Baron of Monaltrie," 2nd of Birkenburn. He and his wife got charter of confirmation of Birkenburn in Jan. 1570, and he was dec. before 27th Sept., 1592.

Harry, in Knock. James G., 1st of Lesmoir, granted a reversion of the lands of Knock on payment of 1000 merks, in 1550; on the back of the deed is a notarial instrument of discharge, granted by Harie G. in Knock, son of the relict of Alex. Gordon, sometime of Birkenburn, redeemed in 1588. Geo. G. of Lesmoir and his son Alex. are witnesses. The relict was Beatrix.

Duncan. A Duncan Gordon of James. Perslie is a witness to a charter of sale by Henry G. of Tulloch to Wm. Forbes of Tolquhon and his 2nd son, in 1585; another witness is John G. of Newton (Tolquhon Charters).

ALEXANDER, 3rd of Birkenburn, got charter of confirmation in 1592. He, along with Alex. G. of Oxhill, and Jas. G., app. of Leitchistoun, were witnesses to a bond of caution granted by Jas. G. of Lesmurdie for Alex. G. of Lesmoir and Jas. G., app. thereof, signed at Auchendoir and Lesmoir, 1604. This is prob. the "old gudeman of Birkenburn" in 1644.

Note.—A Thomas Gordon in Drumulug was one of the witnesses when George, Earl of Huntly, granted precept of infeftment to Alex., son and heir of Geo. Gordon of Lesmoir, on the death of his father, in the lands of Meikle Coldstone, with the mill, &c., in the Barony of Aboyne, 11th Oct., 1591; also in Reg. Privy Co., in connection with slaughter of Allan Grant, along with Alex. G., then app. of Lesmoir, and his son James; and in Huntly Rental of 1600 a John Gordon was tenant of Nether Drumulug. Thomas of Drumulug perhaps half-brother of Alex., first of Birkenburn.

George. William. John, killed while hunting by Allaster Cadell or Calder [prob. of Asloun or of that family]. According to Balbithan MS. it was James, 2nd laird, who was thus killed.

JAMES, 4th of Birkenburn. Maitland of Auchincrieve.

Betrage, prob. Beatrix, who md. Adam Duff of Barbara. Clunybeg or Muldavit, who was fined by the Covenanters in 1646, and died 1674. She died 1640.

William of Sockach=Elspet Gordon, dau. of Goodman of Merdrum. Balbithan MS.

(A Mr Robert Maitland of Auchencrief was a witness to the redemption of some lands by Wm. Forbes of Tolquhon and his son from Harrie Gordoun of Over Tulloch, 4th November, 1585, at Tarves (Tolquhon Charters).

ALEXANDER, 5th of Birkenburn.

=Helen, dau. of Robt. Bisset of Lessendrum, by a dau. of Geo. Gordon of Coclarachie and his wife, dau. of Jas. Duncan of Merdrum. [She was the relict of Robert Crichton of Bainshole and Drumdollo; persecuted by the Presbytery of Turriff, as her father was.]

Catharine, md. to Robt. Christian, md. John G. Leslie of Edintore of (Qy.) Strancoer (? Stramore).

3. WILLIAM, 6th of Birkenburn, mentioned as laird in 1742.

=Jean, dau. of Wm. Duff, Provost of Inverness.

1. Alexander, entered at King's Coll., Aberdeen, yr. of Birkenburn in 1670.

James, also at King's College, yr. of Birkenburn 1677.

Janet

4. Peter, in Haddich=Beattie Gordon, of Cabraeh; d. 10th Dec., 1758.

Magdalen, md. 10th Aug., 1732. =John Stewart, minister of Lhanbryde; later of Drumblate, admitted thereto 1734; d. 1743; said to have acquired Birkenburn.

John; he or his son John sold Birkenburn to the Earl of Seafield in Feb., 1824.

Alexander, in Haddich.

Margaret.

James, of [?] in Auld=1. Helen, dau. of — Grant, Speyside. Merdrum, Rhynie. =2. Jean, dau. of Wm. Gordon, Newseat.

George, sometime in Auchmair, later in Balnacraig, Glass.

John, some time in Auchmair, later in Drumfergus, said to have been "out" in the '45, and treated with great rigour in consequence; d. 1752, aged 51.

Elizabeth Gordon. Peter, Buncruich, Bessie, known as "uncle."

James, in Glasgow, died —. Peter, in Aberdeen, unmd. Isobel, md. Janet, to Wilson of Auchaber.

Robert=Ann Margaret, dau. of Thomas Gordon.

Hugh of=Elizabeth, dau. of Wm. Forbes of Echt.

Anne=Caie in Aberdeen.

Jean, unmd. Dau.=Grant, Bauma-killoch.

Dau.=Wilson. "Duncroft's mother."

Dau.=Forbes, Botriph-nie.

Robert=John of Coynachie, Lt.-Col. 92nd High.; d. 1827, aged 75.

Elizabeth Soutar.

Jane Malcolm, Haugh of Glass, =2nd. A son of Ter-persey.

Dau. Ann, =Wm. Stewart, in Parkdargue, Kirkton, and Little Fargue; d. 1802, aged —.

James, d. unmd. Cosmo, d. unmd. Margaret, d. unmd.

Amelia, md. John Geddes, M.D. Hugh William, =Elizabeth, dau. of Francis Lovell.

James of=Elizabeth Cruger, dau. of Henry Lumsden of Tillywhillie & Clova.

Hugh, settled in N.S. =Mary, dau. of Wales, "Manar"; has 6 sons.

Elizabeth, md. Capt. W. Skene of Lethenty.

Jane, md. Anne, md. Harry Lumsden, yr. of Clova.

Robina, md. Maj. Brickenden, 71st Highrs.

John. Mary=— Waddel. no issue.

William, M.D. in Jamaica; d. 1828, aged 52; married twice and left issue.

John, Maj.-Gen. R.A., b. 1789, d. 1861 in infancy.

1st. Dau. of Skene Ogilvie, D.D.; issue, a son, d. in infancy.

Elizabeth, d. unmd. Margt., d. unmd.

Issue—4 sons; the eldest, Robert, acquired estate of Aucharnie; his son, John Stuart, I.L.D., of the Register Ho., Edinburgh.

Hugh, the Knoll, Elgin, b. 1884.

Ann Robina, dec.

Georgie Anna, dec.

Margaret, md. Harry Strin-ger Clinch.

Robert Amelius, 3. young.

Also see below. Catharine, d. young.

Hugh, Lieut. 90th Light Infantry; d. unmd. 1858.

Elizabeth, died young.

James, died young.

Anne, died young.

Henry of Manar, =Ellen, dau. of Vice-late 92nd and Rifle Brigade. 1874.

William, Alice d. young. Elizabeth

Mary=Arthur M. Fraser.

William A. M., Lieut. R.A., d. unmd. 1875.

Cosmo George, Lt.-Col. R.M.L.I., in Culdrain.

Agnes, dau. of Simpson of Cobairdy.

Sophia Margt., md. Rev. J. Watt, died 1899.

Jane, b. 1836, d. 1846.

John F. Cosmo G. May J. Margt. A.

INDEX OF THE GORDONS OF BIRKENHEAD

Alexander Gordon
1st Laird of Birken-
head, in a
Gordon of Lismore
wife of lands of the
the spouse in con-
them, evidently on
marriage, date of
No. 58, 1701, before

JAMES, Baron of M
2nd of Birkenburn
his wife and children
Gordon of Birken-
head, 1750, and he
before 27th Sept. 17

ALEXANDER, 3rd of B
of confirmation in
Alex. G. of Oxhill
Birkenhead, were a
Gordon granted by J
Alex. G. of Lismore a
signed at Auchincho
This is prob. the
born, in 1711

JAMES, 4th of Birken-
burn, 1711
1711

ALEXANDER, 5th of Birken-
burn
Heir, dau. of Robt. Bisset of Lismore, and his wife dau.
Gordon of Auchincho, (she was the wife of
of Auchincho and Bannockburn, (she was the wife of
of Auchincho as her father was)

WILLIAM, 6th of Birken-
burn, mentioned as
born in 1715

John Stewart, minister of Lismore, 1732, said to have acquired Birken-
head, 1732, said to have acquired Birken-

From R.M.S. 7, 27th Sept. 1701, before
The King granted a charter containing a charter by
the late Patrick Bishop of Glasgow, 20th, in which he
continued to the late James Gordon of Birkenburn
and Janet Gordon, his spouse, the lands of Birkenburn
and Auchincho, with the mills and manors, in the
barony of Kesh, 20th, which the same James resigned
in favour of himself and the said Janet in person; to
be held by the said James and Janet and the younger
heir, 20th, of the said bishop in fee-firm; reser-
ving the reasonable tithes to James, relict of Alex. G.
father of said James, Rescinded, 20th, 1701. Signed
at Glasgow and Edinburgh, 20th Jan. 1701. The grant of
was given to Alex. G., son and heir of said James, his
heir and assigns, at Edinburgh, 27th Sept. 1701.
James, relict of Alex., appears a mistake for Patrick,
but the name is Janet in the summary given in R.M.S.



